



**DISABILITY  
RIGHTS TN**



# Employment Advocacy Services

## Tips and Resources

**DRT has two programs that provide  
employment advocacy services:**

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**Client Assistance Program (CAP)**

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**Protection & Advocacy for Beneficiaries  
of Social Security (PABSS)**

## ► How DRT Can Help

DRT has two programs that provide employment advocacy services.

### ► Client Assistance Program (CAP)

CAP helps people understand and access **Vocational Rehabilitation (VR or “Voc Rehab”)** and **independent living (IL)** programs.

*CAP is **not** part of VR. CAP is a program of DRT.*

#### HOW CAN CAP HELP YOU?

- Answer your questions about VR and IL programs/
- Explain your rights and responsibilities.
- Provide advocacy or legal assistance.
- Resolve misunderstandings with VR and IL programs.

#### COMMON ISSUES THAT CAP CAN HELP WITH:

- Communication problems with VR Counselors.
- Conflicts about services you will get.
- Issues with Individualized Plans for Employment (IPE).
- Getting assistive technology (AT).
- Helping with service denials and the appeals process.



DRT uses interpreters to speak with you in your language, including ASL.



## ► Protection & Advocacy For Beneficiaries Of Social Security (PABSS)

PABSS helps **Supplemental Security Income (SSI)** or **Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)** recipients who are facing barriers to work.

**PABSS might help you with different barriers to work. Examples of ways PABSS might help:**

- Work with you and your high school to create a transition plan.
- Get the help or accommodations you need in college or other training programs because of your disability.
- Get reasonable help or accommodations at your job to be successful.
- Help resolve discrimination at your job.
- Help with receiving appropriate Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) services.

### 5 Steps To A Successful Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Experience:

#### **BE INVOLVED:**

- Know your rights
- Express your needs
- Ask questions

#### **STAY CONNECTED:**

- Communicate often with all of your VR team members.
- Show up to all appointments and meetings on time, reschedule if you can't go.

#### **BE ORGANIZED:**

- Prepare for your meetings and calls with your VR team.
- Read everything you are asked to sign and get copies of all documents.

#### **BE PATIENT:**

- Allow time for the VR team to respond via phone or email.
- Stay calm if you disagree with your VR Counselor and explain what you need.

#### **ASK FOR HELP**

- Contact the Client Assistance Program (CAP) at DRT if you need help.

# How can I get help from DRT?

## EMAIL OR CALL:

GetHelp@DisabilityRightsTN.org  
1-800-342-1660 OR 615-732-6970

## I KNOW, SUPPORT, OR LOVE SOMEONE WHO NEEDS HELP. CAN I STILL CONTACT DRT?

Yes! Contact us using the information listed above.

All services offered by DRT are **FREE** of charge.

## HOW CAN I SUPPORT DISABILITY RIGHTS TENNESSEE?

You or your company can help DRT. Just visit the “Donate” page of our website or call us directly to give a one-time or recurring gift. THANK YOU!

DRT’s work is guided by the experience and needs of people living with disabilities and/or mental illness in Tennessee.

We value your opinion! Send comments to Feedback@DisabilityRightsTN.org.



[www.DisabilityRightsTN.org](http://www.DisabilityRightsTN.org)

[GetHelp@DisabilityRightsTN.org](mailto:GetHelp@DisabilityRightsTN.org)

1-800-342-1660

Disability Rights Tennessee (DRT) is the designated Protection and Advocacy (P&A) system in Tennessee, proudly serving people living with disabilities and/or mental illness across all 95 counties.

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